

## **2014 BEACH CLUB INVITATIONAL**

### **January 22-26, 2014**

It was Sunday morning, the last day of The Beach Club Invitational, and I was in a pretty good mood. The weather had been great, all of the clips had been accounted for, not one of the ninety participants had threatened me with bodily harm and I was pretty certain that I would be able to pronounce the names of all of those soon to be presented awards. In fact, almost everyone seemed to be thrilled about the enchanted path they had taken throughout the event. Wonderful nightfall festivities flourished over the five days and the spirited play within all five flights was nonstop! Oh, good times! Almost and until, across the facility and apparently dragging his penny-loafers upon a path less traveled, emerged Derek Wassink.

I should have been prepared for this, but after hundreds of hours of seventy-five minute matches held upon the three courts at The Beach Club and eight at the National Croquet Center, my energy, attention level and immune system were, indeed, waning. I won't even harp upon the effort needed to practice the pronunciation of Sherif Abdelwahab, who would capture the Championship Flight Singles (26-4) over Bob Chilton. But it was the coffee stains all over Derek's blue and white pin-striped jacket that now had what was left of both my mind and eye. And any stain on Derek was a warning sign.

Until his arrival, I had enjoyed watching good play: David Spivey defeating Kelso Sutton (16-15) to win the Third Flight, newcomer Randy Cardo overcoming (12-10) the phenomenal Gerry McCauley in the Second Flight and, late in the day before, rising star Vickie Johnston taking Fourth Flight honors over the last minute substitute, Hal Denton (12-7). Steve Warner was now on his way to out-shooting (15-9) Geoffrey Mattison in the First Flight and Sherif was doing everything that he could to find his name upon the newly initiated Dwight Mayer Trophy. I wanted to see every remaining shot, but now my eyes seemed to be mesmerized, unable to drift away from, well, that darn coffee stain. Seconds later, my hearing became hostage as well, the words sent my way mumbled only due to my own lack of interest.

It was my mistake. I asked: Derek, my good man, how go your travels? And I could have bitten my tongue off faster than I finished the sentence. For the next fifteen minutes, the top-seeded player in the event (-3.5) ranted, cried and philosophized about a clip misplaced, the evils of double-banking and something about a lawsuit against Starbucks. I stood there as though I were three balls dead, with nothing to do and nowhere to hide. And it hurt, so much that I finally broke his monologue by asking: how did you like the tournament, and shouldn't we watch the very end of it? "It's the best," he replied... "I am just sad that I am not worthy of it." Or something like that.

And it was the best, and favorites don't always win. At least not those who can't figure out that two clips at the second wicket do not magically move forward. But what is certain is that The Beach Club tournament, which has become the largest Invitational upon the calendar, continues to offer an incredible experience both on and off the lawns. I had a good hair day on Sunday, and no one can take that away. And eighty nine players certainly can't wait to be at this event next year. Probably ninety.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES**

1. Sherif Abdelwahab
2. Bob Chilton
3. Johnny Mitchell
3. Ted Quimby
5. Chris Patmore
5. Derek Wassink
5. Michael Todorovich
5. Tim Bitting
9. David Ekstrom
9. David McCoy
9. Dick Sullivan
9. Michael Gibbons
13. Linda Huxtable
14. Peter Just
14. John Hunter
14. John Phaneuf
17. Barry Gibson
17. Ron Huxtable

## **FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES**

1. Steve Warner
2. Geoffrey Mattison
3. Conrad Rugart
3. Blaine Davis
5. Rufus Bayard
5. Patrick Colt
5. Don Heerens
5. Bill Hartman
9. Chuck Whitlow
9. Paula Phaneuf
9. Jodie Rugart
9. David Collie
13. Dawn Jupin
14. Tom Hughes
14. Bob Yount
14. Jim Dushek

## **SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES**

1. Randy Cardo
2. Gerry McCauley
3. Sandy Walsh
3. Joe Knoll

5. Victoria Albrecht
5. Sheila Davis
5. Kevan O'Conner
5. Doug McKechney
9. Betty Whitlow
9. John Ryan
9. Kevin Moran
9. June Ryan
13. Betty Crisler
14. Martie Ekstrom
15. Reine Bitting
15. Jake Johnson

### **THIRD FLIGHT SINGLES**

1. David Spivey
2. Kelso Sutton
3. Roxanne Rosetto
3. Carla Rueck
5. Huston Huffman
5. Sally McGrath
5. Richard Dolan
5. Thomas Tribby
9. Carole Lembo
9. Joy Bradford
9. Penny Ferraro

### **FOURTH FLIGHT SINGLES**

1. Vickie Johnson
2. Hal Denton
3. Freear Pollard
3. Missy Chilton
5. Franklin Perrell
5. Hildegard Jones
5. Lovejoy Duryea
5. Sheila McCauley
9. Jeanette Tribby
9. Susan Cushing

### **CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT DOUBLES**

1. Bill Hartman
2. Ted Quimby
3. David Ekstrom
4. David McCoy

5. Bob Chilton
6. Rufus Bayard
7. Michael Todorovich
8. Sherif Abdelwahab
9. Peter Just
10. Johnny Mitchell
11. Chris Patmore
12. Tim Bitting
13. John Hunter
14. Linda Huxtable
15. Don Heerens
16. John Phaneuf
17. Tom Hughes
18. Blaine Davis
19. Chuck Whitlow
20. Dick Sullivan
21. Ron Huxtable
22. Derek Wassink
23. Paula Phaneuf
24. Barry Gibson

### **FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES**

1. Dawn Jupin
2. Patrick Colt
3. Doug McKeckneay
4. John Ryan
5. Sandy Walsh
6. Josie Jackson
7. Kevan O'Conner
8. Randy Cardo
9. David Collie
10. Jodie Rugart
11. Jake Johnson
12. Gerry McCauley
13. Geoffrey Mattison
14. Betty Whitlow
14. Victoria Albrecht
16. Betty Crisler
17. Bob Yount
18. Steve Warner
19. Sheila Davis
20. James Dushek
21. Reine Bitting
22. Herb Roemmele
23. Lucille Maresca

## **SECOND FLIGHT DOUBLES**

1. Carla Rueck
2. Joe Knoll
3. Kevin Moran
4. June Ryan
4. Vickie Johnston
6. Thomas Tribby
7. George Mathys
8. Richard Dolan
9. Charlotte Hapak
10. Joy Bradford
11. C.A. Knoll
12. Josephine Stetson
13. David Spivey
14. Eileen Holberg
15. Sandra Feeney
16. Huston Huffman
17. Whickey Knight
18. Martie Ekstrom
19. Roxanne Rosetto
20. Kelso Sutton
21. Eileen Fell
22. Sally McGrath
23. Penny Ferraro
24. Joy Diesel

## **THIRD FLIGHT DOUBLES**

1. Pat Barille
2. Mary Anne Mathys
3. Sheila McCauley
4. Sharyl Forster
5. Jim Feeney
6. Mae Hamlin
7. Tina Hinckley
8. Freear Pollard
9. Franklin Perrell
10. Lovejoy Duryea
11. Hildegard Jones
12. Bob Duryea
13. Missy Chilton
14. Rosemary Falconer
15. Louise Collins
16. Susan Cushing